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TEN CENTS PER WEEK

IMPROVE RIVERS OR SUFFER SEVERE RETROGRESSION

Warning From Interstate Commerce Commissioner That Internal Waterways Must Take Care of Transportation in Future.

ABOUT RIVERS AND HARBORS

(Staff Correspondence.)
Washington, D. C., Dec. 5.—I attended the opening session of the national rivers and harbors congress and heard the secretary of state and other speakers who will note as being down for addresses. Mr. Root has not much speaking voice, and his delivery is much like Roosevelt's in its emphatic quality, but he knows how to talk directly to the point. From my observation of him on the speakers' stand and among the crowd I think he is a thorough man without any of the politician's suavity, nor was he speaking so favorably for waterways improvements for political effect.

River men are standing in little groups around the wharf lounging places in Paducah today as they have stood for so many years past, and while the subject of river improvements is a variety of public and local issues, if one stays there a little while he will soon find that it comes back to the rivers and their improvements with the consequent good times that will follow. To those river men I can say unqualifiedly that dreams of river improvements are past and in Secretary Root's own words, "The bridge has now been reached." We could dismiss Mr. Root's speech as political gas; we could set down congressional and administrative promises of support as an opiate to soothe the unrest of river men; and there still would be left in the situation enough to back up the assertion that the time has come when dreams will be laid aside and actual realization is at hand.

Rivers on Retrograde.
This assurance comes from the speech of Mr. Martin A. Knapp, chairman of the interstate commerce commission. Here is an overstrained man, who for years and at present has been struggling with the problem of fair and adequate transportation by rail, who says that river improve-

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TROOPS ARRIVE

Goldfield, Dec. 7.—Col. Reynolds, with federal troops, arrived and took possession of the mining properties. Residents and miners were silent as troops marched through the streets.

CHICAGO THE WINNER

Washington, Dec. 7.—The Republican national committee assembled today and confirmed the selection of Chicago as the place for the convention. The date was set for June 16. Chicago received 32 votes, Kansas City 17, and Denver 4.

BROTHER-IN-LAW HURT

Prof. W. H. Sugg, principal of the High school, received word today of the serious injury of his brother-in-law, Mr. Bishop, in a runaway accident. He has a farm near Madisonville and was hurt out there. Mrs. Sugg is now in Madisonville, where she was called last week by the illness of her mother and sister, who are no better.

WILL BRING SUIT

Mr. H. F. Pryor, who lives on the Mayfield road just beyond Tennessee street, came to the city this morning to employ a lawyer to bring suit against the Illinois Central railroad for damages he received at the Tennessee street crossing one night last week, when the wheel he was riding was wrecked on the crossing, which he declared to be unsafe and dangerous.

Mr. Pryor claims that the ties at the crossing are exposed in such a manner that when he came to the crossing in the darkness, his wheel was wrecked and two of his ribs were broken. The city may also be made a party to the suit.

Cousins Marry

Walter Grimes and Mary Grimes secured a marriage license at the county clerk's office this morning. The couple are cousins and live in Louisville.

WORST MINE DISASTER IN THE HISTORY OF MINING WAS ONE AT FAIRMOUNT YESTERDAY

Men Trapped Behind Fallen Coal in Entries—Dead are Unrecognizable and Burned.

Fairmount, W. Va., Dec. 7.—At 10 o'clock today 125 dead bodies had been taken out of the mine. Rescuers in No. 6 say many more bodies are in sight. In mine No. 8 rescuers are just getting started on account of the gas.

Temporary hospitals with 20 physicians are attending exhausted rescuers. Thomas Cain, an inspector, was overcome and is in a serious condition. A special train of caskets arrived at noon. Two American women attempted suicide when told there is no hope for their husbands being found alive.

It is now said the death list will be over 500. Officials did not include

THOMPSON, WILSON AND CO. MAY GO INTO BANKRUPTCY

Petition in involuntary bankruptcy was filed in Louisville by Attorney J. S. Ross, of the firm of Orice & Ross, against Thompson, Wilson & company, wholesale whisky dealers, 125 North Fourth street, one of the oldest concerns in western Kentucky. The ground is preference of creditors while insolvent. Liabilities of the concern are estimated at upward of \$100,000, with assets, consisting of stock valued at \$35,000, and accounts and notes, worth a great many thousands dollars. Complaining creditors assert that several thousand dollars have been paid to creditors on accounts within four months, and if the concern is declared bankrupt these sums will go to swell the assets.

Orice & Ross represent the McIlwain Distilling company, of Louisville, and the petitioners are Hume & Lancaster, Louisville, \$240; Terre Haute Distilling company, Terre Haute, Ind., \$2,500; Henry H. Shufeldt, Peoria, Ill., \$600. Complaint is made that the following creditors were paid in full December 2, 1907: James Levy, Cincinnati, \$345; Woolner & company, Peoria, Ill., \$296.75.

The suit will be contested. Thompson, Wilson & company's practically all owned by John Rinkoff, who was secretary and treasurer when the late John Sinnott was head of the concern.

A story was circulated to do injury to one of Paducah's best banks, that Thompson, Wilson & company were indebted to the American-German National bank in various sums.

Mr. L. M. Rieke, president of the bank, said: "Thompson, Wilson & company have not done business with this bank for several months, and we hold only one note of that concern, for only \$650. This note is secured by warehouse receipts for whisky in government warehouses. The bank also holds some notes and bills of Thompson, Wilson & company's customers—sold to us by them—which we regard as good, but for the payment of which the bank does not look to Thompson, Wilson & company. The payment of these notes and bills has been guaranteed to the bank, in writing, by eight of its directors."

THE WEATHER.



CLOUDY

Cloudy tonight and Sunday. Warmer tonight. Highest temperature yesterday, 32; lowest today, 35.

laborers, who were in the mine when the explosion occurred. In the list today. Only sixteen dead bodies were removed from the mine but about 100 others are located, being kept in the mine until excited relatives will leave the mine entrance. Debris will be cleared away by night and then the bodies can be reached easily in mine No. 6.

Officials class the death list as follows: Americans, 100; Poles, 150; Italians, 200. Total dead, 450.

Three charred and blackened bodies, lying in the morgue near the entrance to the mine, four men hovering between life and death from awful bruises sustained and deadly gases inhaled, in a temporary hospital, and 493 men imprisoned by tons of coal, rock and debris in the depth of the hills surrounding this town, with chances all against a single one of them being alive, is the most accurate summary obtainable last night of the results of a mine explosion which in all probability was attended by greater loss of life than any former disaster in the history of the bituminous coal mining industry in America.

The explosion occurred shortly after 10 o'clock, after a full force of 500 men had gone to work in the two mines affected. These mines are numbers six and eight of the Consolidated Coal company, located on the opposite side of the West Fork river at this place, but merged in their underground working by a heading and on the surface by a steel tippie and bridge.

The four living men are unable to give any detailed report of the disaster or to even say how they reached the surface. They state that immediately back of them, when they began their struggle for liberty, there was a large number of men engaged in a similar struggle, while still further back in the workings was a large number of whom they knew nothing.

It is the opinion of those familiar with the mines that these seven men had not penetrated the mine as far as had the majority of the day shift when the explosion occurred, and that they headed for and reached the main entrance before the heavy cave in that now blockades the entrance more than a few hundred feet beyond the main opening of mine No. 6.

As to the miners referred to by the rescued men as having been alive when last seen, it is believed that they were caught back of a heavy cave-in of coal in the mine roof and could not have survived more than a few minutes in the dead gases with which the entry was filled as soon as the ventilating system was interrupted. There is more hope for those in the remote sections of the mine, as they may have reached the workings where fresh air is supplied by other openings. But at the best only the most slender hope is entertained for the survival of any of the men in the mine until the debris can be cleared away and communication with outsiders established.

WITHDREW MONEY SAME DAY BOUGHT GEMS—ACQUITTED

T. N. Letcher, former manager of the Paducah office of the National Credit company, who was indicted on a charge of obtaining jewelry from the Nagel & Meyer store, was acquitted at the trial of the case in circuit court today. The prosecution charged Letcher with buying a diamond on the claim that he had a deposit at a local bank, when he had no money on deposit. The defense showed that the money was on deposit when the goods were bought but was withdrawn the same day. Letcher left the city and was arrested at Memphis. He has since settled with the jewelry firm for the goods bought.

G. W. Eddison plead guilty to a charge of robbery and was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. Judge Reed dismissed the jury at noon until Monday morning. The trial of Peter Arlund, charged with obtaining money under false pretenses, was set for Monday.

W. J. BRYAN OPENS HIS CAMPAIGN IN ILL. YESTERDAY

Intimates That Sullivan Incident is Closed and Declares Flurry Result of Turning From Bimetallism—Makes Bid For State.

GUEST AT CHICAGO BANQUET

Freeport, Ill., Dec. 7.—William J. Bryan opened his Illinois campaign for the presidency on the Democratic ticket here last night in two speeches before mass meetings, and later at a banquet at which nearly seven hundred prominent northern Illinois politicians assembled. Bryan spoke on the vindication of the Democratic platform since 1896. The Republican party, said Bryan, has been steadily falling from popularity and today but one man can win the presidency, one who will have to break away from the precedent and accept a third term and one who has only gained his popularity by taking for his issues planks from the Democratic platform. He pointed out that the present financial stringency was the result of turning down Democracy's bimetalism issue and declared that the trusts, tariff and labor arbitration problems were being solved according to lines embraced in Democratic platforms. Colonel James Hamilton Lewis also addressed the two mass meetings on lines similar to those of Bryan. In addition to these gentlemen speeches were delivered at the love feast by Lee O. Browne, of Ottawa; J. Stanley Browne, of Rockford; Samuel Alschuler, of Aurora, and former Mayor Dunne, of Chicago.

At Chicago.
William J. Bryan, who was yesterday the guest of local Democracy, made a speech at a luncheon given by the Irons club, the keynote of which was party harmony.

"Where an agreement has been reached among men as to what ought to be done, there should be a forgetfulness for the past," he said.

"Men should have forgetting machines so far as individuals are concerned. 'Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors' is a good doctrine to follow. Resentment and revenge are the most foolish of things."

Men who heard the words took them to mean that Bryan's differences with National Committeeman Roger C. Sullivan were at an end and that there would be no anti-Bryan contest in Illinois. Sullivan having declared he will start no strife afresh.

Bryan declared the Democratic party was more united today than it has been for years, while he asserted, the Republicans are divided.

TAFT SAILS

Washington, D. C., Dec. 7.—Taft sailed from Hamburg: "Just sailing." He expects to arrive December 18.

OLLIE JAMES WILL VISIT DEPARTMENT

Mayor Yeiser is in receipt of a letter from Ollie James, who says he will pay a personal visit to the navy department and request that the gunboat Paducah be sent here to receive the silver service at an early date.

CULBERSON SUGGESTED

Washington, Dec. 7.—Senator Culbertson, of Texas, is being talked of in connection with the chairmanship of the Democratic national committee.

ADJUSTERS COMING

Adjusters are expected here Monday to settle the loss of the John G. Rehkopf Buggy company on the stock of buggies burned in the warehouse at Eleventh street and Broadway a few nights ago. The most of the insurance on the burned building and contents was placed with the Weil and Hughes agencies.

LOST FIFTY BUNNIES

H. T. Wilkins, a huckster, of Folsomdale, reported to the police this morning that 50 rabbits had been stolen from his wagon while he was peddling produce on the north side this morning. Mr. Wilkins stopped at many grocery stores and left his wagon several minutes at a time and is not sure where they were stolen, as he did not miss them until he reached the market.

NIGHT RIDERS PUT TO TORCH PROPERTY VALUED \$200,000 AT HOPKINSVILLE THIS A. M.

Willson's Stand

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 7. (Special.)—Governor-elect Willson expressed his determination this morning to take every means in his power, when he takes his seat, to enforce the law in the dark tobacco district. He said the raid on Hopkinsville was an outrage.

SHERIFF WITH POSSE

Hopkinsville, Ky., Dec. 7. (2 p. m.)—A posse of 15, headed by Deputy Sheriff Cravens and Major Bassett, set out after the raiders and overtook them not far from town, and a running fight opened. No one was injured and the raiders, who were well mounted, having left their horses some distance out of town, escaped.

SEARCHLIGHT IS PUT TO NEW USE SCARING ROBBERS

James Tucker, Buster Brown and Mose Vaughan, three desperate looking negroes, were arrested this morning on a charge of attempting to hold up and rob Herbert Blackburn, colored, an employee of the towboat Harriet, at the foot of Clay street on Thursday night. The officers are also trying to secure evidence that will connect the trio with some of the many burglaries that have been pulled off recently.

Blackburn was paid \$50 Thursday evening by the officers of the boat at the New Richmond House and it is alleged that Brown, Tucker and Vaughan saw him collect the money and follow him to the river and held him up, as he was preparing to get into a skiff to go to his boat.

The watchman on the boat heard the men scuffling with Blackburn, who resisted them, and turned the search light on them, which covered the robbers and they ran. The matter was reported to the police and it was found that Tucker and Vaughan were quartered on a deserted barge near the I. C. incline. When arrested they said Brown had left town, but he was seen on the streets this morning and arrested.

The trio were presented in police court this morning and the charge against them continued until Monday. All three were sent to the county jail.

LIVELY CONTEST IS PROMISED FOR GEORGE LEHNHARD

Indications are that a lively fight will be made in the general council over the office of license inspector. The incumbent, George Lehnhard, who has made a most excellent official, being opposed by Bob Hicks. Lehnhard has made some enemies in the performance of his duties, and this opposition has been taken advantage of to unite influence against him, but he seems to have the advantage in the race.

FARRELL'S BODY COMING

Friends here have not been able to get any definite information as to how George Farrell, the ship caulker, who was found dead in a skiff near Belmont, Mo., came to his death, though the report that he was murdered seems to be credited. It is said there was a large hole in the forehead of the dead man, which appeared to have been made by a blow started down the river in a skiff with some companion and that they quarreled and Farrell was killed. A message was received here last night that the body had been buried at Columbus, Ky., but would be exhumed and sent here. Farrell is entitled to a funeral benefit of \$100 from the local ship caulkers' union.

Take Possession of Town and Destroy Three Warehouses and Shoot Into Banks.

FIVE HUNDRED MASKED MEN ENTER CITY

Property loss—\$200,000.
Warehouses destroyed: W. A. Tandy, Tandy & Fairleigh, and R. M. Woodridge.
Banks fired upon: Commercial, Hopkinsville and Planters.
People injured: Brakeman Delph, shot; A. C. Mitchell, tobacco buyer, beaten.
Mob of 500, from Caldwell and Trigg counties.

Cut Off All Means of Communication, Take Police and Fire Stations, then Fire the Buildings.

MR. MITCHELL, INDEPENDENT TOBACCO BUYER, TERRIBLY BEATEN BY MOB AND L. & N. BRAKEMAN SHOT IN BACK—POSSE FOLLOWING.

JAPAN DEMANDS NEW IMMIGRATION TREATY WITH U. S.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Coinciding with Viscount Aoki's summons to Tokyo, comes the information today indicating that Japan insists upon coming to a definite understanding on the immigration question and strongly urges an entirely new immigration treaty with the United States as the sole remedy.

Thomas J. O'Brien, American ambassador to Japan, today informed the state department that officials should begin studying conditions and the Japanese demands, with the view of framing some new agreement. This indicates that Japan's efforts to check immigration is a failure; that Japan does not wish to be humiliated by having different phases of the present agreement threshed out in congress, and that the Tokio government insists upon some new agreement, which will be satisfactory to both nations. Viscount Aoki's return is closely connected with the solution of these questions.

GOLDEN ON STAND

Georgetown, Ky., Dec. 7.—Wharton Golden, on the stand, told of alleged conversations with Powers, Finley and John L. Powers, regarding plans of killing Goebel, and also plans to bring mountain men to Frankfort. He said both Powers and Taylor said Goebel will have to be killed.

CHANGE B'WAY SCHEDULE

Guthrie avenue cars may run down town instead of transferring at Seventeenth street and Broadway. The residents of Guthrie avenue and vicinity have asked the Paducah Traction company to run the Guthrie avenue cars all the way down town. Mr. Blecker said he would try to do this, but the cars would run every 20 minutes instead of every ten as they now do, and that there will be no Broadway short line, for the Guthrie avenue cars will cover the same track. If this is done the change will be made next week.

FOUR HOUSES BURNED

Two double tenement houses and two "gun barrel" houses on Terrell street between Seventh and Eighth streets, and the property of Dal Powell, the commission merchant, burned this afternoon at a loss of about \$1,500 with \$700 insurance. The houses were occupied by Chaney Morrow, Belle Mack and Nan Scott, all colored. The fire started in the house occupied by Nan Scott and is supposed to have been caused by a defective flue. The alarm was answered by the Nos. 3 and 4 fire companies, but the flames had gained too much headway. Other buildings were saved.

Hopkinsville, Ky., Dec. 7. (Special.)—Five hundred masked and heavily armed men, walked into Hopkinsville this morning at 2 o'clock, took possession of the police and fire stations and the telephone and telegraph offices, destroyed the independent warehouses of W. A. Tandy and Tandy & Fairleigh, and the association warehouse of R. W. Woodridge, and shot into the Commercial Bank and Trust company, the Planters Bank and Trust company and the Bank of Hopkinsville, entailing a loss of \$200,000. They also severely whipped Mr. Mitchell, an independent buyer, whom they dragged from his bed, and shot an L. & N. brakeman, named Delph, in the back.

The men arrived quietly. They swarmed to the telephone and telegraph offices and the police and fire stations, and guards were placed in every street, who fired at every head poked out of a window to learn the cause of the commotion. They first fired the W. A. Tandy warehouse, and Woodridge's warehouse caught from that. They then proceeded to Tandy & Fairleigh's warehouse in the residence section and set that on fire.

Having insured the success of their work of destruction, the mob went to the home of Mr. Mitchell, an independent buyer, and dragged him from his bed and took him to the most prominent corner of the city, where they beat and kicked him almost into insensibility, and left him for dead. He will recover.

After they had assured themselves that the warehouses were doomed, the guards told the firemen they could come forth, and the whole mob started away from town.

The mob came from the direction of Trigg county, and when it left, Hopkinsville people to the number of 15 followed them as far as Gracey, Trigg county. The mob left its horses in the country and walked in along the Illinois Central railroad. The telephones were put out of commission so that the militia could not be summoned.

There was no tobacco in Woodridge's, the association warehouse, as no new association tobacco has been received and the old has been sold. The building caught from Tandy's.

The tobacco burned was insured for \$50,000.

The brakeman, Delph, was shot, when a switch engine was backed down to the warehouse to save some tobacco, and the night riders ordered the crew to desist.

The Imperial and American Snuff company warehouses were not molested, it is believed, because they were too well protected. A rumor of a prospective visit from night riders of Trigg and Caldwell counties reached Hopkinsville several days ago, but it was thought the independent men were safe. The trust and Imperial, however, took precaution and were saved.

These two concerns concentrated here after the Princeton trouble last year, thinking to be immune. It may

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